

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT  
REGULAR WORK SESSION  
MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2011  
6:00P.M.**

**1. OPENING**

**1.1.1 Call to Order**

Council President Gatling called the meeting to order at 6:01p.m.

**1.1.2 Roll Call**

Present: Councilmember Latasha Gatling, Mayor Eugene Grant(Late Arrival 6:49p.m.), Councilmember Darrell Hardy (Absent), Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr., Councilmember Elenora Simms, Councilmember Aretha Stephenson, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin (Absent)

Staff: Robert Ashton, Acting City Administrator, Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk, Darlinda Sanders, Administrative Assistant

**1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:**

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Stephenson

**1.1.4. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved with the following modifications:

Council President Gatling had stricken the following items from the agenda:

4.3A, 4.3C, 4.3D and 4.3F

It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the agenda with the modifications. The motion carried.

**2. PRESENTATIONS:**

**2.1. Maryanne Anthony, Prince George's County Institutional Network:**

- Ms. Anthony, City Manager for North Brentwood asked if the City Council had received the I-Net annual report. The City Council had received the report last month.
- Ms. Anthony stated that the I-Net is a viable resource that connects the government.
- The most important upgrade is for the officer to receive the first hand information in the police cruiser.

- The data base will provide tax information, clerk information to share resources
- The City of Bowie has saved \$52,000 from their telephone bill alone. It cuts the cost of the phone usage and internet usage.
- We use pictometry allows you to print out information with pictures
- She's excited to report in the last six (6) months. The county went after stimulus money to connect all municipalities to run the fiber to the building.
- We need the members to agree to the bylaws. Every municipality has a voice in the process. It is no longer an issue to run the fiber optic cable.
- We must adopt the bylaws by legislation and forward them to Maryanne Anthony. The full I-net committee will vote you in as members.
- They are encouraging all municipalities to join. One of the police officers are currently coming to the meetings
- Councilwoman Simms asked if there will be any ongoing cost after connectivity. Each municipality receives three (3) percent from Verizon and Comcast. The fee is a maximum of 1/3<sup>rd</sup> from Comcast.
- The government relation governs the three (3) percent to be used only for the I-net.
- It gives you a wide variety of database that is connected to the State and Capitol Area region. We will have access to the tax database.

## **2.2. Darlinda Sanders**

- Ms. Sanders informed the City Council that she has sent out participation letters for the parade twice.
- We have confirmed Central High School ROTC, Senator Benson, Councilwoman Toles and States Attorney Angela Alsobrooks.
- We have been approved for the parade route and Chaplain Ivey is getting the cones to block the streets.
- The vendor applications are due on April 15, 2011 so we do not have a count for the vendors.
- We have the performers established, but had a request for a Gospel Go-Go. Councilwoman Gatling stated no to any type of go-go.
- The platform/hydraulic stage will be provided by Park and Planning. We will have the reviewing stand for the basket ball game.
- Councilwoman Gatling wanted to know what will be the time frame for each performance. Ms. Sanders stated that the performances are set to be at different times. We will have two different stages this year and the pavilion.
- Ms. Sanders describe the activities at the park on Seat Pleasant Day. She stated that she had envisioned all the entertainment to take place at the pavilion. She



did not plan on getting a stage. Councilwoman Gatling stated that she should go on with her original plan.

- Councilwoman Gatling stated that if we go along with the original plan and it doesn't go well. Ms. Sanders will be responsible.
- Councilman Porter stated that he disagreed with not having the stage. He wanted the platform stage not the hydraulic stage. He stated that we had problems in the past with getting the sound set-up.
- Councilwoman Simms wanted to know where the pony ride will be established in the park. She is concerned about the food permit for the snow cone and popcorn machine being too close to the pony rides.
- The Council wanted the skate mobile to be on the basketball court, if possible.
- The tents have been ordered. We have four (4) tents.
- Councilman Porter stated that there was an issue with the hoses last year that leaked. Ms. Sanders stated that water hoses will be ordered.
- Ms. Sanders will check with Mr. Thompson regarding the banner. Councilwoman Simms recommended the banner be placed on the fence on MLK.
- Councilman Porter wanted to know if the public works department had sprayed the park for mosquitoes and/or bees. Ms. Sanders stated yes they have taken care of the spray.
- The parade route was changed to not go down to the McDonald's.
- We have five confirmed vendors, and four non-profit vendors, but the applications are due on April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Sanders will check into the cost to purchase additional banners or signs to promote the parade.
- She has ordered the t-shirts and the purchase requisition have been completed
- She has spoken with staff about working Seat Pleasant Day. The staff wanted to know if they could get time off for the time they work on Seat Pleasant day. Councilman Porter wanted to know how many people (s) are needed for the day.
- We have four (4) staff members that have volunteered to work Seat Pleasant Day. Councilwoman Gatling stated that she guess they could get compensatory time for the day. She feels that it should be changed to a work day
- The Council requested Ms. Sanders to provide the council with map layout of the park.

### **3. LEGISLATION**

- None



## **4. REPORTS**

### **4.1. Mayor's Report:**

- Mayor Grant stated that in accordance to the charter he is to present the City Budget to you by April 1, 2011. He has requested that Mr. Ashton provide a copy of the budget to the Council that is present. He stated that they will see to it that the Council not present will receive their copy.
- He stated that the budget has increased from 3.4 million to the 3.8 million.
- He stated that he did an electronic survey of the residents and a hard copy as well.
- He stated that the City Clerk budget includes the election expense. He has requested that the Office of the Mayor Assistant be made full-time. He increased the salary for the City Administrator to \$80,000. He stated that you may want to ensure that the Assistant to the City Administrator is adequate. He stated that in the public safety he has requested two (2) additional officers. We are requesting two (2) unmark cars for the police department. We have upgraded salary increases to two public works staff. We have increased the Feggans Center soft cost. We have increased the Community Service Newsletter budget. The above is only the areas of increases. Councilman Porter stated that he does not see the newsletter in the budget. Mr. Ashton and stated that it was on the wrong the line and the correction will be made.
- Mayor Grant stated that he wanted to pay tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who was assassinated forty-three years (43) ago today.
- He had the honor of meeting with Dr. Cornell West to gain knowledge
- He wishes to acknowledge the demise of two residents of Ward I Ms. Staggs and Mr. Johnson.
- This year marks the 80<sup>th</sup> year of our City. He will be honoring Amanda Feggans, Charles Ruffin, Gloria Sistrunk and Reverend James Flowers. He is requesting eight hundred (\$800.00) for the event that was not used for the Black History program under the Community Service Budget. The event will be held on May 16, 2011 at the Seat Pleasant Elementary School.
- We have installed the ethics board last month. He is requesting the cost of \$2,500.00 for stenographic services, legal services and reporting, space for the meetings in accordance to Chapter 18 of the City Code Book.
- He has included \$6,000 in the proposed FY2012 budget for their necessary services.
- We are gearing up for the second annual Health Summit this summer. We will have the citizens involved this year. There will be a major announcement at the



meeting this year. He has a meeting with the president of Dimensions. The summit will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2011.

- The tax credit bill did not pass and he expected it not to pass this year. Senator Currie informed him to continue to submit the bill. It is the states bill and we are just requesting them to adjust the tax.
- He is requesting the council to find ways to collaborate with the neighboring municipality.
- He stated that they he had the pleasure of meeting with the Mayor and Council of Capitol Heights. There is an issue regarding the Capitol Heights/Seat Pleasant Boys and Girls Club. They are stating that they keep reaching out to Councilwoman Simms. They had submitted a bond bill and continue to use Seat Pleasant name. They did not meet with the Mayor or Council of Seat Pleasant regarding the bond bill.
- He is requesting that the Mayor and Council of both jurisdictions have a meeting to get things in the proper prospective with the Boys and Girls Club board.
- Mayor Grant feels that we need to collaborate with the neighboring municipality when submitting a bond bill request. We can be supportive of one another.
- He is asking for the Council support in completing the Veterans Marker. He did not put the money in the budget. He wanted to see if we could complete it out of this year's budget.

#### **4.2. City Administrator Report:**

- Robert Ashton, Acting City Administrator Report: Mr. Ashton stated that he will be reporting on four (4) areas, Refuse, Internal Audit, Verizon Cable, Flat Screen
- The refuse collection Request for Bids and the submission dates were due on March 31, 2011. We opened the bids on March 31, 2011. He would be meeting with the management team that consists of him, Mr. Thompson and Mr. Oliver.
- The internal audit began on March 24, 2011. He had passed out the activity report up to this point. They may be completed by the end of the month.
- Councilwoman Gatling wanted to know when the activities were completed, as the report was copied from their book without any dates or initials.
- He reported that he is in receipt of the annual report and will review and provide a copy to the council from Verizon. The report will be provided to the Council and Finance & Budget committee this week.
- The flat screen television will be installed within the next forty-eight (48) hours.

- **Council Committee Reports:**

- 4.3A Economic Development, Housing and Planning-**

- No Report stricken from the record.

- 4.3B Finance & Budget Committee-**

- Councilwoman Stephenson reported that she spoke with Mr. Ashton and they will be working together and getting the monthly report. The speed camera revenues are holding consistently at \$6,000 per month.
    - Councilwoman Gatling stated that she noticed today those speed cameras are being put on MLK.
    - Councilwoman Gatling wanted to know if the school zone had been extended on MLK. Mr. Ashton stated that they have not contacted the state for confirmation.

- 4.3. C Government Affairs & Technology-**

- No Report stricken from the record

- 4.3. D Human Services, Health and Education-**

- No report stricken from the record.

- 4.3. E Public Safety, Civil Rights-**

- Councilman Raynor stated that they met last week and there are two (2) ordinances that they would like to introduce next week. Mr. Ashton requesting that the Council reviews the legislation and communicates any changes to the City Clerk.
    - Uk kun do oohwaka stated that the vacant dwelling owner or agent must register the property as being vacant. The purpose of the legislation is to have the code enforcement officer to identify the vacant homes. Mr. Ashton stated that we have one hundred and fifty seven (157) vacant homes. Councilwoman Gatling requested that the vacant dwelling legislation be sent to the City Attorney.
    - Chapter 150-Vehicle and Traffic legislation is to identify the out of state tags and require the owner to register the vehicle in accordance to the State of Maryland. We currently aren't allowed to go onto private property to address the concern with the tags. Uk stated that there are at least sixty (60) to eighty (80) cars in Seat Pleasant with out of state tags.
    - Councilwoman Simms wanted to know if the MVA has been contacted regarding this issue. Uk stated that they he has contacted them by e-mail and telephone notifying them of these cars.
    - Councilwoman Gatling requested the Vehicle and Traffic legislation be sent to the City Attorney.

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#### **4.3. F Public Works & Transportation Committee-**

- No Report stricken from the record

#### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **5.1. Council Budget Hearing Date**

- Council President Gatling asked the City Council to review their calendars for availability for the budget hearing. The budget hearing date will be on Monday, April 25, 2011 at 6:00p.m.

##### **5.2. Council Budget Review Dates**

- Council President Gatling asked the City Council to review their calendars for availability to review the budget. The budget review date will be Saturday, May 14, 2011 at 12:00p.m., at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

##### **5.3. Request for Funds for the Step to Excellence Program**

- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that she is requesting the \$125.00 for the Step to Excellence walking program. The monies will be used for banner, gift cards, fresh fruit, water and t-shirts.
- The purpose of the program is to fight chronic disease, and be a healthy community.
- They are putting together a committee of ten (10) we would like a group of people. She hopes the council could provide names by next week of interested parties.
- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that the Pleasant Homes Community would like to partner with Seat Pleasant for an Easter Egg Hunt on Friday, April 22, 2011 from 1:00p.m.-4:00p.m. She wanted to know if the city can make a contribution to the event of \$25.00.
- It was recommended that Councilwoman Stephenson use the money from her constituent fund.

##### **5.4. January Finance Report**

- Mr. Ashton requested that the City Council review the report provided.

#### **6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

##### **6.1. Audit Update**

- Mr. Ashton provided the report during the City Administrator report section above.

#### **7. ANNOUNCEMENT**

7.1. Ward I Kite Flying, Saturday, April 9, 2011, Foote Street-Open Field, 11:00a.m.-2:00p.m.

7.2. Public Session, Monday, April 11, 2011, City Hall-Council Chambers at 7:00p.m.

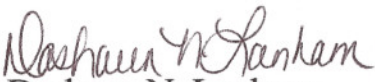
7.3. Elected Officials & Department Heads Financial Disclosure Forms due, Friday, April 15, 2011 to City Clerk

7.4. The Sally H. Joseph HIV/AIDS 5k Fun Run/Walk, Saturday, April 23, 2011, City Hall, 9:00a.m.-11:00a.m.

7.5. Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department-Baskin Robbins 31cent Scoop Night, Wednesday, April 27, 2011, Baskin Robbins 9183 Central Avenue, Capitol Heights, MD 5:00p.m.-10:00p.m.

**ADJOURN**-The meeting adjourned at 8:42p.m.

Submitted by,

  
Dashaun N. Lanham  
City Clerk